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ITEM NO: 2) DATE: 17 DECE	MBER 1974	
SUBJECT: PORTUGAL		
REF :		
THE US EMBASSY IN LISBON REPORTS THAT A	──── POLITICAL (RISIS IS
BREWING THERE OVER THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:		
A DISPUTE OVER THE LONG OVERDUE ECONOR	MTC DRACRAM	NUTCU TS
BEING DISCUSSED BY THE CABINET THIS WEEK; P	RIME MINISTE	ER GONCALVES
REPORTEDLY HAS REJECTED THE DRAFT AS BEING	TOO CONSERVA	TIVE.
UNHAPPINESS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OVER	R GONCALVES'	UNILATERAL
ORDER TO ARREST 12 BUSINESSMEN LAST WEEK;	. •	
REJECTION OF THE DRAFT PRESS LAW AT CO	OMMUNIST PAR	RTY LEADER
CUNHAL'S REQUEST:		
GONCALVES' ACCEPTANCE OF CUNHAL'S DEM.	CNU TAHT CNA	EVERSITIES
DATE: ORIG:		•
UNIT:		•

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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BE CLOSED DOWN.

THE EVIDENCE NOW ON HAND SUGGESTS THAT GONCALVES AND CUNHAL AREMPITTED AGAINST VITOR ALVES AND EDUARDO ANTUNES, BOTH PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. UP TO NOW, GONCALVES, ALVES AND ANTUNES HAD BEEN CONSIDERED THE UNOFFICIAL RULING TRIUMVIRATE.

IF THIS IS THE CASE, IT WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME THE COMMUNISTS HAVE DIRECTLY CHALLENGED THE MOVEMENT'S AUTHORITY. CUNHAL'S PUBLIC STATEMENT OVER THE WEEKEND IN FAVOR OF NATIONALIZING BANKS MAY BE ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE COMMUNISTS INTEND TO SHED THEIR MODERATE IMAGE. E-2 IMPDET.H 25X1A9A ESPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: W EUR DIV AND NIO

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